

National Water Monitoring Day

Fact Sheet

On or about October 18, 2002 (the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act), volunteer monitors, water quality professionals, students, the public, and government leaders will test their local waters for four key characteristics. Stream and beach cleanups, educational events, and water festivals will be part of the event. An outreach campaign is planned to generate local and national media coverage of the event.

Purpose: Goals of the event are to educate the public about watersheds, pollution, and the importance of monitoring; to build better collaboration between agency professionals and volunteer water monitors; to generate “snapshot” data; and to celebrate the role of volunteers and the accomplishments of the Clean Water Act.

Methods: Untrained volunteers will use a simple National Water Monitoring Day kit (available for \$16.75 via the Year of Clean Water website at www.yearofcleanwater.org; takes 50 samples) to test for temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and water clarity. Trained volunteer monitors and professionals will use their standard, more sophisticated techniques and equipment, and may choose to monitor additional water parameters.

Data: Monitors are asked to enter their data for the four key measures to a volunteer database developed by Earthforce/Green and accessible through www.yearofcleanwater.org. Since weather conditions or other factors may not make testing on Friday, October 18 practical, data from testing conducted between October 12 and 27 may be entered into the data system. Data must be entered no later than November 15, 2002. The website will include links to participating organizations, parallel activities, and educational material, as well as some digital photos of sites and events.

Products: A national report summarizing and celebrating the event, with some minor analysis of the data, will be produced by America’s Clean Water Foundation (ACWF). Each participating organization may also choose to prepare its own products.

Sponsors/organizers: ACWF is leading a steering committee composed of state and federal agencies and representatives from volunteer monitoring groups and national environmental groups.

For more information: Visit the Year of Clean Water website at www.yearofcleanwater.org and click on National Events. For questions on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s role and activities, visit www.epa.gov/water/yearofcleanwater.



